

SHAMBLES

May 1978.

the newsletter of the Surrey-Hants border branch of the Campaign for Real Ale

welcome.....

to a fresh attempt to keep members of this branch of CAMRA informed and up-to-date. I hope you will find it doesn't live up to its name. Incidentally, if you can think of a better name I'd be pleased to hear it!

Please, please, if you have anything to say in these two pages, don't hesitate to let me know. (address at end) It's particularly important to have up-to-date information on changes - for better or worse - in the pubs in our area. Write or phone with full details of the pub, the brew that's appeared or disappeared, and the price(s)

Finally, though June lingers not far ahead, remember May and drink as much Mild as you can get down...but leave some for me!

Angus

for better or worse

Following a clue that the two old ladies had left the Sun at Plaistow and that fizzy lager had taken over, your two intrepid researchers hot-footed it to the scene to investigate.

Sure enough, the old ladies have gone and the pub is under new management. Sure enough too, Löwenbrau is available on draught.

But fear not. CAMRA exists to protect the pint, and that, at least, is safe. As well as the well-kept Ind Coope Best, Bass is also available now. Both are 30p a pint.

Plans are afoot to give the Sun a face-lift, and a restaurant, etc.,etc. But the pint seems to be safe for the moment Phew!•

RED LIONS RULE.....OK?

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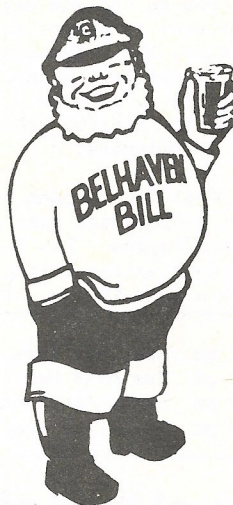
I am reliably informed that the top five pub names in the Good Beer Guide are unchanged from last year, despite an overall increase in listings. They are:

Red Lion	-	99	entries
Crown	--	90	"
Royal Oak	-	87	"
White Hart	-	55	"
New Inn	-	50	"

Perhaps the Red Lions will gang together next year and make it a ton•

a big welcome to BELHAVEN BILL.....

Bill has come to Surrey in a big way - because his shareholders are here. Perhaps other brewers could take note?



Find him at:

The Crown, Chiddingfold
The Compasses, Gomshall
The Drummond Arms, Albury
The Punchbowl, Oakwood Hill, Dorking
The Abinger Hatch, Abinger Common
The Wheatsheaf, Grayswood•

Beer Fest 1978

"Ally Pally" is once again the venue for this year's NATIONAL BEER FESTIVAL, to be held between Tuesday 5th and Sunday 10th September.

The organisers hope this year's festival will be even bigger and better than last year's, with an even wider range of beers available.

They estimate that over 200 staff will be required for each session, so every CAMRA member who can spare some time - even just a few hours - is needed to make it a success.

If you would like to go but feel AP is out of your way, please contact one of the committee and we will seriously consider hiring a coach for one or more sessions.

Staffing forms should be obtained from, and returned to:: (SAE please)

Andy Pirson
22 Fulwell Road
TEDDINGTON
Middx TW11 0RA•

mild affliction



A Good Pint in a Good Pub - that's the maxim of Mr Cartwright, Managing Director of Allied Breweries (Southern). He was addressing the recent formal meeting of the Branch at the King's Arms and Royal, Godalming, itself an Ind Coope house.

Responsible for 600 Ind Coope houses in the South East, how does he go about achieving a good pint in all of them? Unfortunately for us, the 'pint' comes fairly low on his list of priorities.

He stressed that Allied were in 'business to make money and to serve the needs of the drinking public. Draught Burton bitter had been introduced for the needs of the real ale drinkers, and the beer is fined on leaving the distribution point, not at the brewery, he said.

He commented that Double Diamond was still the best seller of the Allied brews, and that a new beer was shortly to be marketed called "Arctic Lite" - a high gravity, low calorie beer. Heaven forbid - I don't somehow think many of us will be drinking it.

We asked Mr Cartwright about Mild. If consumption really is dropping is this because Allied really believe that the young and trendy among us would rather be drinking lager - or the dreaded "Lite"? This is a bit like saying "There's no demand for it - you're the eighth person this morning" Instead of wasting good advertising money on selling these third-rate products, could we not turn our labour force back to those things at which Britain excels - like brewing traditional mild and creating (by advertising) a market for it? He replied that CAMRA helps by saying what we want, and seeking it out but for how much longer? At the moment, the future of KK Mild seems in doubt, and while this rumour has yet to be confirmed, it seems inevitable that its withdrawal is imminent, due to the so-called "lack of demand."

We thank Mr Cartwright for addressing the meeting, and look forward, with a few reservations, to future developments in the trade.

Mike Holdorf•

pub of the month

THE SCARLETT ARMS, WALLISWOOD

This is the first of a regular series about some of the best pubs in our area. The series will often include articles about pubs where meetings are to be held in the near future - there will be a Social at the Scarlett Arms on Tuesday 23rd May at 8.30 pm.

As the crow flies the Scarlett Arms is just over 30 miles from Central London, yet it seems to be in another world. It is many people's idea of the perfect country pub. Walliswood is a quiet hamlet well away from main roads, and at the centre of it stands the Scarlett Arms. It is not cluttered up with cars - the car park is across the road. Behind a whitewashed wooden fence is a well-kept garden, and then the pub - a pair of whitewashed cottages converted to a pub probably in the 1860s.

As you go in the door, you enter the main public room. The bar is at the end, and apart from an intruding Black Label dispenser there is no draught beer in sight. The ale is kept in a ground floor 'cellar' reached from a door behind the bar. Each pint is fetched for you straight from the barrel.

It is King and Barnes. The mild and bitter are sold, together with the justly famous Old Ale in the winter. (It was still being sold on the 12th May, so if you go now you may still be lucky! The beer is always in first-rate condition, the only complaint being that it can be too cold in the winter! That's no problem - just mull it gently by the blazing (real) log fire for a few minutes.

Seating is mostly on wooden benches at substantial tables, and part of the bar is stone-flagged. Low beams abound, as does well-polished brassware. Have a look at some of the old

advertisements.

In a room at the back are darts and shove-ha'penny. Conditions for darts are not ideal, especially if you are tall.

The whole place is spotlessly clean and well-kept by 'Booie' Thompson, the landlady. She came to the pub in 1971 with her husband, who died in 1974.

This is a village pub rather than an eating house, but excellent snacks and home-pickled eggs are usually available.

One word of warning. The pub is a small one, so please don't go in a large party without warning Mrs Thompson first. There is no sort of intrusive music or juke-box, so fans of these should stay away. The rest of you, do go and try the place, but treat it with the respect it deserves.

Paul Critchley

meetings:

Tue 23rd May	8.30 pm	Scarlett Arms, Walliswood
Tue 13th June	8.30 pm	Business Meeting, Wheatsheaf, Chobham Road, Woking
Tue 20th June	8.30 pm	Hampshire Meeting, Lamb, Hartley Wintney
Tue 27th June	8.30 pm	Social, Prince of Wales, Hammer Vale



THEY'RE DOING IT AGAIN!!

Gerald Daniels and Sheridan Hughes, that is. For those of you who missed the first RAIL ALE RAMBLE to Bath and Oxford, and for those who didn't and would like to repeat the experience, the trip is being repeated on Saturday 8th July.

14 Brewers - 22 Brews!
Afternoon tour of the Cotswolds
Express train comfort

The special train will leave Brighton at 0820, Redhill 0915, and Guildford 0950. It has also been arranged to make a call at Farnborough North, leaving at (approx) 1005. Passengers may also board the train at Hayward's Heath, and get FREE connections from East Croydon, and all stations in the Central Southern Region area, on showing their ticket.

Tickets are only £4.95 each, and you will be allocated your own reserved seat. Sounds too good to miss!

Hurry hurry with your reservations and ring Gerald Daniels on Fleet 28647 (evenings), or send an SAE to him at

Crookham Travel
11 Attlee Gardens
Church Crookham
Aldershot GU13 0PH ●

psrkle at the Latings

The Second Farnham Beer Exhibition took place between Thursday 20th and Saturday 22nd April.

Over 50 different beers and ciders were on display, and consumed in this period by connoisseurs from all walks of life and all parts of the country.

The exhibition, organised jointly with Farnham Lions, the Maltings Association and CAMRA, has become so successful over such a short period that it looks set to becoming a permanent event, on almost a national scale. This year it was spread out over another day to ease the load in the Great Hall of the Maltings.

This building lends an appropriate environment for a festival such as this, and thanks are due to the Maltings Association for the lease.

Special tribute should also be paid to those on the organising committee - Chairman Ralph Carter, Secretary Paul Blowfield, Beer handling experts Robert Eggleton and Peter Slinger, and to John Simms and John Brownlow who handled tickets and finance. Without the efforts of these people, the event would never have been the success it was.

Praise should also go to the catering staff at the Maltings for the continuous supply of ploughman's lunches and savouries to complement the good beer and cider.

Thanks must also go to all those behind the scenes who handled tickets, publicity, money, etc. Not to forget all the CAMRA Members and their friends who either served beer or drank the occasion to success. And to the Farnham Police who kept a friendly eye on proceedings from their neighbouring headquarters.

Perhaps next year we'll stick to the Trad Jazz every evening, to keep everyone happy. Here's to FARNHAM 79

Mike Holdorfe

COMMITTEE OFFICERS:

for those who need reminding:

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